

15 Westwood Road  
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December 14, 2009

Harry M. Wyatt III  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Director, Air National Guard  
National Guard Bureau  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington VA 22202-3231

Dear General Wyatt:

I am writing to you regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement – for modification of the Condor 1 and Condor 2 Military Operations Areas in Western Maine.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club maintains 267 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail across the State of Maine. 152 miles of the Appalachian Trail lies under the Condor 1 and Condor 2 Military Operations Areas.

The DEIS proposes to combine the two Military Operations Areas and lower the flight floor of this combined area from 7,000 feet above ground level to 500 feet above ground level.

While the DEIS projects a slight decrease in sorties flown in the MOA, it acknowledges that there will be increases in noise at ground level. The DEIS also notes that an F-15 flying at 500 ft above ground level will produce over 117 decibels of noise at ground level.

We at the Maine Appalachian Trail Club consider the Appalachian Trail to be a premier recreation and conservation resource located in one of the wildest and most attractive areas left in the eastern United States. Low flying aircraft as described in the DEIS will threaten the very nature of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

Therefore, we request and recommend that the Army National Guard not lower the flight floor from the current level of 7,000 feet above ground level.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Lester C. Kenway  
President  
Maine Appalachian Trail Club